

Remarks of Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman at the Lt. Governor's Leadership Luncheon for the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana

Crystal, we thank you for your leadership. Welcome Girl Scouts and Girl Scout supporters. We're halfway into our program and we are inspired. But let's take a minute to think and focus for further inspiration.

Imagine a room with three people in it; one is a seasoned army officer, another is a two-time cancer survivor, and the third is the CEO of a company with multi-million dollar government contracts.

What do these people look like? Is the army officer a grizzly old man with tobacco on his breath? Is the cancer survivor a frail, older person, maybe wearing a wig or scarf to cover hair loss? Is the CEO a power-dressing gentleman in his 50's?

Allow me to change your perspective a little, and tell you about some of the Hoosiers I've met as I've traveled Indiana.

The army officer is Captain Elizabeth Williams, a petite and attractive, blonde young mother. Last year, I spoke at the deployment of 134 soldiers on their way to Iraq. She and her husband are proud members of the Indiana National Guard, but she is the one fully in command and control of her soldiers. She had an aura of courage and a spine of steel, even if her boots were smaller than everyone else's.

The cancer survivor is a little girl named Tatum Parker. She has beaten the odds and won her fight against cancer twice in her short lifetime. And instead of allowing her problems to defeat her, she has started her own non-profit organization. She distributes book bags full of encouraging games and toys to other kids fighting cancer. I presented one of my Hoosier Rising Star Awards to Tatum. Her zest for life and compassion for others are just a part of her strong character.

And the accomplished CEO, is the capable Priya Wharton, CEO and founder of Tri Star Engineering. She started her firm after service as an engineer at Crane Naval Base, and has operations now from southern Indiana to Washington D.C. She's a defense contractor, marketer, employer, and overall success story. She lives her life with confidence, leading others to do the same with her powerful example.

I can't tell you if these women were girl scouts or not. But they are the first faces that come to mind when I think of the Girl Scout creed – courage, character, and confidence. They are Hoosiers at their best – strong, hard working, compassionate and inspiring.

I have a magnificent view from this stage of our bright, young, talented girls and the adults who support them. Our girls need good examples to keep them on the right path to allow them to become leaders themselves.

Today, we'll honor three more women who are leading by example— all of them were Girl Scouts. I can't wait to hear from them.